

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Sunny, warm, and windy, 84°F (29°C)
Tonight: Clear, brisk winds, 65°F (18°C)
Tomorrow: Breezy, scattered clouds, 79°F (26°C)
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Volume 127, Number 26

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Sherley Seeks Tenure Process Review; MIT Police Posted at Lab

By Joyce Kwan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

James L. Sherley, an African American associate professor in the Biological Engineering Department, said that he remains steadfast in staying at MIT until the Institute assesses the validity of his charges of discrimination in the tenure process. According to Sherley, the administration agreed to reassess problems in the tenure process through an external panel in exchange for Sherley ending his hunger strike. The Institute says that there is no agreement for external review of the tenure process.

Sherley, who is supposed to leave MIT on June 30, wrote in an e-mail to President Susan Hockfield on April 25 that he "will not leave MIT until MIT meets its publicly announced agreement to faithfully work toward a fair resolution."

Sherley told *The Tech* that the "June 30 date has no legitimacy" because it was set before the agreements that ended his hunger strike and leaves no time for a fair review of his tenure case.

According to Sherley, Provost L. Rafael Reif repeatedly sent letters in April reenforcing the June 30th deadline as the end of Sherley's appointment. The letters, according to Sherley, also stated that steps needed to be taken in the coming weeks for Sherley's departure from MIT, including providing notices to research sponsors and BE personnel.

Sherley, who refuses to communicate with the Provost, said that Reif has "a clear conflict of interest" because he was charged with mishandling the grievance process, and therefore should be exempt from

Sherley, Page 18

MIT Rejects SAE's DRM Policy, Prompts Review

By Shreyes Seshasai
STAFF REPORTER

Following opposition by MIT, the Society of Automotive Engineers halted implementation of digital rights management controls aimed at restricting access to SAE documents. On April 19, SAE issued a press release stating that they would not enable DRM controls "on the Society's Digital Library of technical papers for licenses at colleges, universities, and other academic institutions."

The release came a month after MIT announced that it would not renew its subscription to SAE's Digital Library because of SAE's desire to place all of its content under

DRM. "It would have been dramatically precedent-setting to accept this DRM," explained Ellen F. Durancieu, scholarly publications and licensing consultant for MIT.

Two years ago, the SAE announced that it would begin to use DRM on all of the content in its Digital Library, placing additional restrictions on end-users accessing SAE papers. According to Tracy A. Gabridge, associate head librarian of the Barker Engineering Library, "what makes it really negative is that this content is largely provided by academic institutions to the SAE ...

Libraries, Page 9



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

An audience member at yesterday evening's *xkcd* webcomic lecture holds on to one of hundreds of labelled playpen balls which fell from ceiling hatches in 10-250. The label, which says 'Our hobby: Posting "09 F9 11 02 9D 74 E3 5B D8 41 56 C5 63 56 88 C0" in public places,' alludes to a number of past strips. Randall Munroe, *xkcd*'s author, gave a lecture on the webcomic to a packed house in 10-250. See page 11 for additional photos.

MIT Chooses to Divest From Sudan

Amount to Be Divested and Companies Involved are Not Publicly Named

By Marie Y. Thibault
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Ending months of speculation, MIT yesterday released a statement on the issue of divesting from corporations involved with the Sudanese government.

According to the statement, the MIT Corporation's Executive Committee has decided to review "the securities portfolios over which it may exercise direct investment discretion and will divest as appropriate for

those portfolios to exclude securities that would violate MIT's investment principles."

The statement does not clearly state what these "investment principles" are, but does say that "MIT invests for the purpose of preserving the capital of MIT's endowment and earning a return on capital that is consistent with MIT's long-term investment horizon ... [but] will not invest in a company whose actions or expressed attitudes are abhorrent

to MIT."

It is not clear how much money may need to be divested or what companies may be involved. Secretary of the Corporation Kirk D. Kolenbrander said that "as a matter of policy, MIT does not discuss" its investments.

Kolenbrander added that assessments of MIT's investments have been made and that the MIT Invest-

Divestment, Page 15

Preferred Dining Fee to Be Frozen at \$325

By Angeline Wang
NEWS EDITOR

Campus Dining has decided to freeze the Preferred Dining fee at \$325 for up to three years. The decision, which came last Friday, May 11,

follows a May 4 report released by the Baker House Dining committee, which found that the average Baker resident loses \$125 per term through Preferred Dining. Preferred Dining costs \$300 this term; a \$25 price hike for fall term was announced earlier this year.

The Baker House Dining Committee responded to the pricing freeze on May 14, calling Campus Dining's decision "unacceptable" and saying that the increase of Preferred Dining costs from \$300 to \$325 "shows [Campus Dining's] in-

clination to increase cost to students rather than control system costs and make operational improvements."

Baker House residents refused to pay more than the price of \$300 for the fall term in a vote last Monday, May 7.

Richard D. Berlin III, director of Campus Dining, said he could not comment yesterday due to lack of time but that Dining was moving forward as described in its May 11 response to the original Baker report.

Baker Dining, Page 16

PSC to Restructure by Fall '07

Public Service Center Passes Programs to Student Groups, Depts.

By Kirtana Raja
NEWS EDITOR

The Public Service Center is currently undergoing a restructuring that will be complete in the fall. Several PSC programs are going to be passed over into the hands of student groups, who will then run the programs with occasional help from the PSC.

Finding new homes for these programs will allow the PSC time to help students find good matches for

suitable volunteering positions instead of having to solely concentrate on running the programs, said Heather A. Trickett, volunteer and outreach coordinator for the PSC.

Programs that already have new student homes include Keys to Empowering Youth (a program that brings 11–13 year old girls together with MIT female students to par-

PSC, Page 19



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

(left to right) Chienchuan Chen G, Marissa G. Desmond G, Charles Curran G, and Ian Kaminski-Coughlin cross an all-fiber bridge built across the Stata Moat by students in Materials in Human Experience (3.094). The bridge is modeled on those built by the Incas in the high Andes of Peru.

NEWS

This is *The Tech*'s last regular issue for the 2006–2007 school year. *The Tech* will publish on June 8 for commencement.

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In Short

¶ U.S. Postal Service rates went up by 2 cents yesterday, bringing the price of a first class stamp to 41 cents. For more information, see <http://www.usps.com/rates/>.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

WORLD & NATION

Secretary Rice Seeks To Ease U.S.-Russia Tensions

By C.J. Chivers
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday that while Russia and the United States were going through a period of uneasy relations, the problems fell far short of those of the Cold War and that the two countries continued to cooperate in a number of important areas.

“Russia is not the Soviet Union, so this is not a U.S.-Soviet relationship,” Rice said, speaking en route to Moscow and meetings with President Vladimir V. Putin and senior Russian officials.

“We don’t have a relationship that would be anything like the relationship that we had with the Soviet Union,” she added.

The carefully tempered remarks, reflected in a transcript released by the State Department, signaled an effort by the United States to ease some of the public tensions between Moscow and Washington that have grown during the second terms of Putin and President Bush.

Both men are nearing the end of their terms, a period in which Russian confidence and influence have grown. Rice is to meet with Putin at the Kremlin on Tuesday.

Chrysler Group to Be Sold For \$7.4 Billion

By Mark Landler and Micheline Maynard
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Frankfurt, Germany — DaimlerChrysler confirmed Monday that it will sell a controlling interest in its struggling Chrysler Group to Cerberus Capital Management of New York, a private equity firm that specializes in restructuring troubled companies. The price being paid is \$7.4 billion, mostly in the form of capital that Cerberus will put into Chrysler.

The deal unwinds a 1998 merger that was meant to create a trans-Atlantic automotive powerhouse.

The agreement will leave DaimlerChrysler, of Stuttgart, Germany, with a 19.9 percent stake in Chrysler. DaimlerChrysler will change its name to Daimler AG. It will be freed of a great amount of pension and health care liabilities in the new Chrysler company.

Cerberus will take an 80.1 percent stake in the new company, to be known as Chrysler Holding.

With the deal, Chrysler becomes the first of the big Detroit automakers to be privately owned. The prospect of private ownership had alarmed Chrysler’s labor unions, which had come out strongly against the sale of the company, fearful that an investor might try to break up the company or seek deep cuts in wages and benefits.

U.S. Soldier Killed in Pakistan During Border Dispute

By Carlotta Gall
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kabul, Afghanistan — An American soldier was shot dead and four other Americans were wounded in Pakistan on Monday after a meeting between Afghan, Pakistani and NATO officials at the border to try to resolve recent clashes between the neighboring countries, Afghan and NATO officials said.

The soldiers were ambushed by “unknown assailants” near Teri Mangal, on the Pakistani side of the border, after leaving the meeting and heading back toward Afghanistan, a statement from the NATO force in Afghanistan said. Two of the wounded were civilians and two were servicemen, it said. Teri Mangal lies less than two miles from the Afghan-Pakistani border. Afghan officials said that the dead and wounded were Americans.

Four Pakistani soldiers who were escorting the Afghan and NATO team were also wounded, and one later died of his wounds, Pakistani officials said. The military spokesman blamed “miscreants,” a term often used for militants in the tribal areas.

Iran Is Enriching Uranium on Large Scale, Inspectors Say

By David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Vienna, Austria — Inspectors for the International Atomic Energy Agency have concluded that Iran appears to have solved most of its technological problems and is beginning to enrich uranium on a far larger scale than before, according to the agency’s top officials.

The findings may change the calculus of diplomacy in Europe and in Washington, which aimed to force a suspension of Iran’s enrichment in large part to prevent it from learning how to produce weapons-grade material.

In a short-notice inspection of Iran’s main nuclear plant at Natanz on Sunday, conducted in advance of a report to the U.N. Security Council early next week, inspectors found that Iranian engineers were already using roughly 1,300 centrifuges and were producing fuel suitable for nuclear reactors, according to diplomats and nuclear experts here.

Until recently, the Iranians were having difficulty keeping the delicate centrifuges spinning at the tremendous speeds necessary to make

nuclear fuel, and often were running them empty, or not at all.

Those roadblocks appear to have been surmounted. “We believe they pretty much have the knowledge about how to enrich,” said Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the energy agency, who clashed with the Bush administration four years ago when he declared that there was no evidence that Iraq had resumed its nuclear program. “From now on, it is simply a question of perfecting that knowledge. People will not like to hear it, but that’s a fact.”

It is unclear whether Iran can sustain its recent progress. Major setbacks are common in uranium enrichment, and experts say it is entirely possible that miscalculation, equipment failures or sabotage could prevent the Iranian government from reaching its goal of producing fuel on what President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad boasts is “an industrial scale.” The material produced so far would have to undergo further enrichment before it could be transformed into bomb-grade material, and to accomplish that Iran would probably first have

to evict the IAEA inspectors, as North Korea did four years ago.

Even then it is unclear whether the Iranians would have the technology to produce a weapon small enough to fit atop their missiles, a significant engineering challenge.

Iran says its nuclear program is intended to produce energy, not weapons.

While the U.N. Security Council has passed a resolution demanding that Iran suspend all of its nuclear activities, and twice imposed sanctions for its refusal to do so, some European nations, and particularly Russia, have questioned whether the demand for suspension still makes sense.

The logic of demanding suspension was that it would delay the day that Iran gained the knowledge to produce its own nuclear fuel, what the Israelis used to refer to as “the point of no return.” Those favoring unconditional engagement with Iran have argued that the current strategy is creating a stalemate that the Iranians are exploiting, allowing them to make technological leaps while the Security Council steps up sanctions.

Al-Qaida Calls Hunt For Three Abducted U.S. Soldiers Useless

By Damien Cave
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Baghdad, Iraq — The search for three missing American soldiers abducted after an attack south of Baghdad continued Monday as the al-Qaida group that claimed responsibility for the ambush said the soldiers would never be found.

“What you are doing searching for your soldiers will be in vain and lead to nothing but fatigue and unrest,” said a statement posted on jihadist Web sites by the Islamic State of Iraq, an umbrella insurgent group that includes al-Qaida in Mesopotamia. “Your soldiers are in our hands. If you desire safety do not look for them.”

The statement suggested that the group was reveling in a manhunt that required a hefty deployment of resources at a time when Congress

has pressed the American military to show progress here by September.

About 4,000 American soldiers have been scouring the orchards and villages near Mahmudiya, a predominantly Sunni Arab farming town where the attack occurred early Saturday morning. A similar search involving 8,000 soldiers last June for two American soldiers captured in a town nearby forced commanders to cancel or delay operations in other parts of Iraq until after they were found dead four days later.

On Monday, the American military reported the deaths of four American soldiers, a Marine and an airman throughout Iraq.

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, the top military spokesman in Baghdad, said Monday that the search effort would continue. Of

the four American soldiers and one Iraqi soldier who died in the ambush, he said in a statement, one American was still unidentified. “We are using every asset and resource available to the United States and our Iraqi allies in these efforts,” he said.

He confirmed that American officials believe “al-Qaida or an affiliate group” engineered the abduction. He said it took 56 minutes for reinforcements to arrive at the scene of the ambush because the first and second units sent to assist discovered roadside bombs along the way. He also said that “elements of the same unit” that was attacked heard the initial explosion at 4:44 a.m., suggesting that the two Humvees burned at the scene had not been traveling alone.

Typically, American convoys include at least three vehicles.

WEATHER

Cooler Weather on the Horizon

The past weekend’s pleasant weather won’t last for too much longer. A local high pressure system is keeping our skies clear for today, but will be swept offshore later in the afternoon. It will be replaced by a broad cold front, accompanied by strong storms. The front will reach us by tomorrow morning; as the boundary passes Boston, expect temperatures to plummet.

Elsewhere in the country, thunderstorms rage across most of the Midwest and southern Ontario, extending as far south as Texas. Rainfall is heaviest over the Great Lakes region, centered on a low pressure system above Michigan. By Thursday morning, the storm systems will have passed, and a new high pressure region will bring generally clear skies to the center of the country.

For now, the weather remains quite warm, with temperatures in the low eighties. Winds will strengthen considerably overnight ahead of the advancing front. Tomorrow, the lingering warm air mass will be sufficient for a daytime high around eighty, before cooler air behind the front produces an overnight low below fifty. The rising warm air will produce light rain and scattered thunderstorms throughout the Northeast. Expect Thursday to be much cooler than the recent summer-like weather.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny and warm. Windy with strong gusts. High 84°F (29°C).

Tonight: Clear, with brisk winds. Low 65°F (18°C).

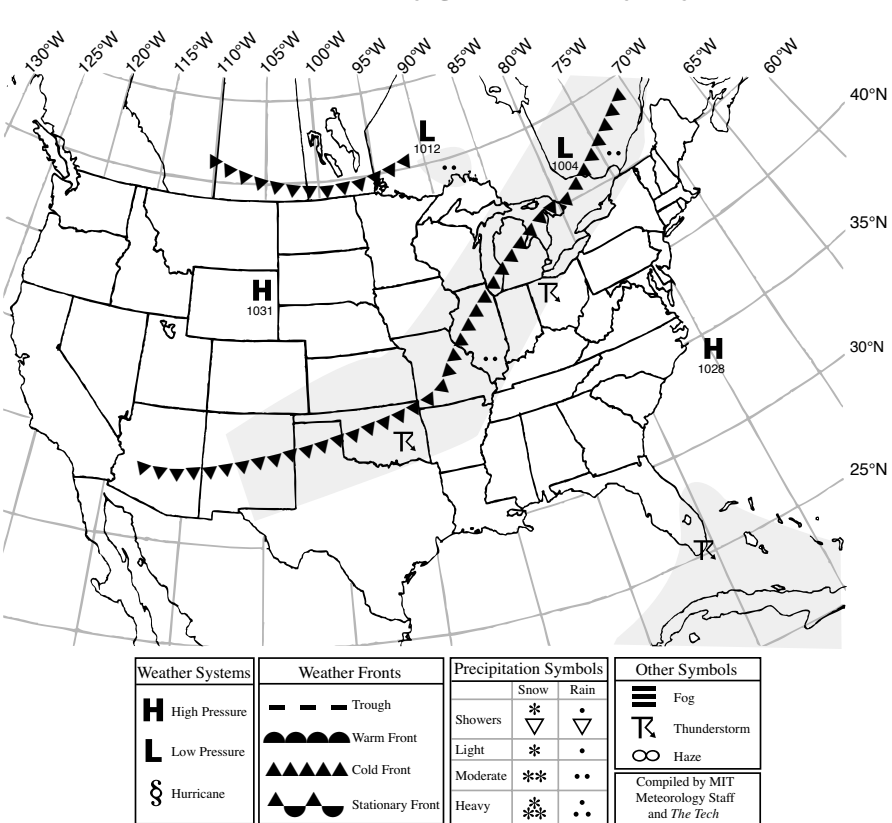
Tomorrow: Scattered cloud cover, breezy. High 79°F (26°C).

Tomorrow night: Light rain and scattered thunderstorms. Low 49°F (9°C).

Thursday: Cooler, with some lingering showers. High 61°F (16°C).

Friday: Overcast, light rain. High 63°F (17°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, May 15, 2007



World Bank Comm. Finds That Wolfowitz Violated Ethics, Rules

By Steven R. Weisman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A World Bank committee charged on Monday that Paul D. Wolfowitz violated ethical and governance rules as bank president by showing favoritism to his companion in 2005. In response, the Bush administration mounted a last-ditch global campaign to save Wolfowitz from being ousted from office. On a day of rapid developments that intensified the furor over Wolfowitz at the bank, in the Bush administration, and at government ministries around the world, the special committee that has investigated his conduct in the last month issued a scathing set of conclusions that seemed certain to hasten a decision on Wolfowitz's fate.

The report charged that Wolfowitz broke bank rules and the ethical obligations in his contract, and that he tried to hide the salary and promotion package awarded to Shaha Ali Riza, his companion and a bank employee, from top legal and ethical officials in the months after he became bank president in 2005.

Summing up, the report said that

Wolfowitz's behavior "placed himself, in a matter in which he had a personal interest, in opposition to the established legal framework of the institution he had been selected to head and in a conflict-of-interest situation even in the domain where he had proposed to recuse himself."

The committee, consisting of seven of the 24 members of the World Bank's board, did not make a recommendation about whether to remove or reprimand Wolfowitz, as it had planned to do. Instead, it called on the board to make its own decision in light of its conclusions.

But bank officials familiar with the mood of the board said it would have little choice but to punish Wolfowitz.

In the face of that storm, Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. was on the telephone during the day with counterparts in at least half a dozen countries to tell them that "these facts do not rise to the level of warranting dismissal," according to a senior Treasury official.

Until Monday, Paulson's conversations with finance and development officials, many of whom have

told him they favor Wolfowitz's ouster, have been confined to urging that there be no "rush to judgment."

Vice President Cheney said in an interview with Fox News in Jordan before the special committee's findings were released that Wolfowitz was "one of the most able public servants I've ever known" and that "he's a very good president of the World Bank, and I hope he will be able to continue."

White House and Republican officials said that from the beginning, President Bush has seen the controversy over Wolfowitz as a proxy fight waged by liberals at the bank opposed to Bush's policies, and that they would not toss him or Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales overboard just because administration opponents want them out.

Beyond pride and politics, administration officials said that having someone at the bank who is viewed as committed to combating corruption and waste in aid programs, and who commands the confidence of Republicans and conservatives, helps guarantee congressional funding for the bank's projects.

Bush Orders Review of Auto Fuel Efficiency For New Automobiles

By Jim Rutenberg
and Edmund L. Andrews
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush announced Monday that he had directed his administration to begin the long process of establishing higher fuel efficiency standards for new cars.

But officials said it was unclear if, at the end of that process, Bush would ultimately take it upon himself to raise the gas mileage of the nation's automobiles, which has not significantly increased in decades. Bush, speaking in the Rose Garden on Monday afternoon, said nothing would be put into effect until the regulatory process is completed at the end of 2008, just weeks before the end of his term of office.

Environmental groups, which have long called for substantial increases in the government-mandated fuel standards, expressed skepticism that the administration would enact new standards without congressional action and dissatisfaction that he did not offer specifics. Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., chairman of the House select committee on Energy

Independence and Global Warming, called the announcement "a stall tactic."

Bush's announcement came during a period of new headlines about resurgent gasoline prices, as well as international and domestic political pressure to control U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels. It comes a few weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court, rebuffing the administration's arguments, ruled in favor of states seeking new federal controls on these emissions from automobiles.

The court found April 2 that carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas, is a pollutant under the Clean Air Act and must be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency unless it scientifically determines it does not contribute to climate change or that action is not necessary. A growing scientific consensus holds that emissions of the gas are a serious problem that ought to be addressed urgently.

The EPA administrator, Stephen Johnson, said during a teleconference with reporters on Monday that the administration was not arguing otherwise. "We accept the Supreme

Court's decision," he said, hailing what he called "the first regulatory step to craft a proposal to control greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles."

Bush began the process with an executive order directing the EPA, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to explore regulatory options to enact a proposal he announced in his State of the Union Address, which set a goal for reducing the projected growth of oil consumption within 10 years to a level 20 percent lower than current forecasts.

Bush has opposed setting across-the-board standards of the kind that Congress imposed decades ago, preferring flexibility to account for vehicle size and safety specifications, said Scott Stanzel, a White House spokesman.

Officials have expressed frustration that Congress has not enacted his plan, based on efficiency standards as well as incentives for alternative fuels, which environmentalists have harshly criticized as limited and insufficient.

Palestinian Interior Minister Resigns Monday, Unable to Control Factions

By Taghreed El-Khodary
and Isabel Kershner
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

The Palestinian interior minister, Hani al-Qawasmeh, resigned Monday, and four more Palestinians were killed in fierce factional gun battles.

Qawasmeh, who has been unable to control either the Fatah or the Hamas forces, said he had not been given authority to direct the security forces that were supposed to be under his control.

Prime Minister Ismail Haniya, of Hamas, said he would take over the Interior Ministry temporarily. But the resignation and the bloodshed put enormous strain on the unity government. Qawasmeh was a compromise candidate approved by both Fatah and Hamas, but neither accepted his authority.

His resignation followed the worst outbreak of factional violence in Gaza since Hamas and Fatah reached the agreement in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Feb. 8 to form a unity government. The clashes, which have left at least nine Palestinians dead

and dozens wounded since Sunday, together with the resignation, are being viewed in Gaza as signs that the government may collapse.

"From the beginning, I faced obstacles that robbed the ministry of its powers and made my position empty, without authority," Qawasmeh told reporters in front of his house.

A spokesman for Hamas, Fawzi Barhoum, blamed Fatah, and particularly the elite Presidential Guard, which is loyal to Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president and Fatah leader, for the latest round of bloodletting. The clashes started after Fatah had sent forces onto the streets without coordinating the action with Qawasmeh or Hamas.

But Barhoum said that Hamas "is still committed to the agreement and won't allow Fatah to drive us away from it." Privately, Hamas activists contend that Fatah is trying to bring about the failure of the government, in which Fatah serves as a junior partner.

Fatah blames Hamas for the violence. An Egyptian-brokered cease-fire between the factions was

supposed to go into effect at 1 a.m. on Monday, but Maher Miqdad, a spokesman for Fatah, said Hamas took that as the signal "for an explosion."

"They raided the intelligence headquarters; they tried to raid my house," Miqdad said, adding that members of Fatah's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades militia and his own bodyguards confronted the attackers. Two Fatah men were killed in the fighting, including one of the bodyguards. "We are with the agreement," Miqdad said, "but the Hamas agenda is with escalation."

Miqdad is known to be close to Muhammad Dahlan, a Fatah strongman in Gaza who was recently named national security adviser by Abbas. Dahlan is despised by Hamas, and his appointment has been a particular source of tension.

Palestinian officials said that Qawasmeh had complained that the ministry's director general, Rashid Abu Shbak, another close Dahlan ally, had been obstructing his work and unilaterally giving orders to Fatah-controlled security forces.

Japan to Vote on Modifying Pacifist Charter Written by US

By Norimitsu Onishi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

The Japanese Parliament passed a bill on Monday calling for a national referendum on amendments to the country's pacifist constitution.

The government will be able to hold the referendum as early as 2010, but experts say it may take far longer than three years to persuade voters and opposition lawmakers to back constitutional change. Polls show that Japanese remain split, especially on the constitution's Article 9, which renounces war and forbids Japan to have a full-fledged military.

But Parliament's action was an important preliminary step toward rewriting the American-imposed constitution, a goal long cherished by the governing Liberal Democratic Party and one that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has deemed central to what he calls shedding Japan's "postwar regime."

Any amendments would have to be approved by two-thirds of both houses of Parliament and by a majority of voters in a national referendum. The Liberal Democrats would effectively need the approval of opposition parties, which largely want to maintain the current constitution or have their own plans for revisions.

"The law will be implemented three years hence, and until then it is important to debate broadly and deeply in a calm environment," Abe told reporters.

No. 2 at Justice Dept. Quits In U.S. Attorney Flap

By David Johnston

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Paul J. McNulty, the deputy attorney general whose congressional testimony in February provided a spark that turned the firing of federal prosecutors into a political inferno, announced his resignation on Monday.

McNulty, the fourth and highest-ranking Justice Department official to resign since the uproar began in Congress over the dismissal of the U.S. attorneys, had told friends for weeks that he was planning to step aside.

In a letter to Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, McNulty said he would remain at the Justice Department until late summer, adding "The financial realities of college-age children and two decades of public service lead me to a long overdue transition in my career."

The departure of another senior aide at the Justice Department appeared to leave the attorney general in a somewhat more isolated position. But with President Bush's support, Gonzales has so far fended off demands by Democrats and some Republicans who have called on him to resign.

McNulty, 49, will leave after spending more than two decades in a variety of positions at the Justice Department and on Capitol Hill. He was a U.S. attorney in Virginia before taking the deputy's job in November 2005.

St. Louis Builds on Flood Plains, Putting Faith in Levees

By Susan Saulny

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ST. LOUIS

Miles and miles of bigger and stronger levees have been built along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers since the deadly floods of 1993, and millions of dollars have been spent on drainage improvements.

Yet as the rush of water that caused the Missouri River to overflow its banks and submerge dozens of towns last week rolled toward St. Louis on Monday, attention was turned to a metropolitan region that since 1993 has seen runaway residential and commercial development in the rivers' flood paths.

About 28,000 homes have been built and more than 6,000 acres of commercial and industrial space developed on land that was underwater in 1993, according to research by Nicholas Pinter, a geologist who studies the region at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Building is happening on flood plains across Missouri, but most of the development is in the St. Louis area, and it is estimated to be worth more than \$2.2 billion. Though scientists warn about the danger of such building, the Missouri government has subsidized some of it through tax financing for builders.

"No one has really looked at the cumulative effect," said Timothy M. Kusky, a professor of natural sciences at St. Louis University, who calculates that there has been more development on the Missouri River flood plain in the years since 1993 than at any other time in the history of the region.

Official of Pakistani Supreme Court Shot and Killed

By Salman Masood

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

A senior official of Pakistan's Supreme Court was shot and killed by unidentified gunman early Monday, following political clashes in Karachi on Sunday that claimed 39 lives.

Syed Hammad Raza, a registrar of the Supreme Court, was killed at around 4:30 a.m. local time at his home here in the capital. Raza was close to Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, the chief justice of Pakistan's Supreme Court, who was removed from the bench in March by Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the president of Pakistan, touching off protests and political violence.

Shops were closed and public transportation was shut down in all the country's major cities, including Karachi, Monday after opposition parties called a general strike and the authorities responded by banning demonstrations and declaring a public holiday, Reuters reported. It was the first time since Musharraf took power that a strike call had been so widely observed.

After the clashes in Karachi on Sunday, analysts said that the violence — and accusations that the government had done little to stop the killings — had put renewed pressure on Musharraf.

News reports said that government troops were in Karachi but took no action to separate armed pro-government groups and opposition groups, who were shooting at one another. Dawn, an English-language newspaper in Karachi, said that troops "suddenly disappeared from the troubled spots."

The government has not responded to those claims.

OPINION



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Corrections

The Dance Troupe photos on page 9 of the May 11 issue should have been credited to *Tech* photographer Brian Hemond.
The May 11 letter, “Please Do Not Water Down an MIT Education,” mentioned that “Several years ago MIT halved its core physics and math requirement from two years to one year.” This happened more than 40 years ago in 1964.

Letters To The Editor

Walk For Hunger Deserves Recognition

The Walk for Hunger group from Baker House did a great job raising money for a very worthy organization and they should rightly be commended for their charity, but I think it's a shame that *The Tech* made no mention at all of the many other students and affiliates of MIT who took part in the event. The other students and groups may not have made as large or as organized of an impact as the Baker House team, but I feel that *The Tech* could have at least made some acknowledgement that many diverse members of the MIT community put forth an admirable effort to help the cause.

Kathryn E. Stanchak '09

Student Activity, Admin's Complacency

As the academic year draws to a close, one cannot help but reflect on the events of the past year. One issue that really stands out in my mind is the one regarding MIT's divestment from Sudan.

In early September 2006, after six states and over 25 universities, including Harvard, Stanford, Yale, and the entire University of California system, divested from Sudan in response to the genocide in Darfur, President Hockfield convened the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility to simply begin discussing MIT's potential divestment.

The MIT community sprang into action. As reported by *The Tech*, a divestment petition began the following month asking for Institute-wide divestment by December 31, 2006 and within a month garnered over 300 signatures, topping 500 by the year's end. Further, both student governments, the Graduate Student Council and Undergraduate Association, voted overwhelmingly in favor of Institute-wide targeted divestment by the new year. Besides engaging in merely symbolic measures, student groups also took an active interest on the topic, organizing

three well attended lectures, as well as two photo exhibits, a movie screening and panel, and raising \$2,000 in humanitarian aid for Darfur's refugees. Members of MIT Amnesty International even began a letter writing campaign which culminated with a face-to-face meeting with MIT's district congressional Representative Michael Capuano to discuss the unfolding crisis in Darfur. Even as you read this now, students are busy selling specially designed MIT Save Darfur T-shirts and wristbands in Lobby 10 to raise money for Darfur charities.

With such unprecedented activity at the student level, I beg to ask a simple question: President Hockfield, what have you done to address the genocide in Darfur?

Kayvan Zainabadi G

[Editor's note: This letter was received before the release of MIT's statement on divestment. See page 1 for story.]

Johnson Ignorant

As a former participant in both diving and gymnastics, I was angered by the column written by Travis Johnson entitled “Diving, Gymnastics, Pistol, Rifle Should Not Be Called Sports” in the May 11 issue of *The Tech*. Although I don't have a problem with Johnson's criteria for sports, I do take issue with his application of these criteria to diving and gymnastics. Johnson claims that gymnastics and diving fail to meet his fourth criterion: “The outcome must be determined by the participants instead of an observer. Referees, officials, and judges must enforce the rules, but they can't decide the outcome.” In gymnastics and diving the outcome is, in fact, determined by the participants. As an extreme example, consider a highly respected diver who trips on the board and falls on her face. As much as the judges may love her, they cannot and will not award her a high score for such a failed dive. This diver, the participant, determined the outcome. Johnson goes on to say that “games like diving, which can't easily remove judges from the equation, can be-

come sports in my eyes — by adopting a publicly known scoring system.” Here I argue that there is an objective scoring system in gymnastics and diving. For example a dive is scored out of ten based on the components of the dive: approach, takeoff, elevation, execution, and entry. The experienced eye can measure one dive's elevation, for example, by comparing it to the thousands of other dives it has seen and then assign it a numerical value that reflects how its elevation compares to other dives' elevations. The dive's score is then multiplied by its degree of difficulty, a standard value assigned to each type of dive, to get the final score for the dive. The only reason the scoring system is not publicly known is that the public has not bothered to learn it. The public's ignorance should not exclude gymnastics and diving from the category of sports as this is the fault of the public, not gymnastics and diving themselves.

Julie Meadows is a student at Wellesley College.

Johnson's Argument Fundamentally Flawed

Travis Johnson's recent *Tech* article titled “Diving, Gymnastics, Pistol, Rifle Should Not Be Called Sports” displays a profound level of ignorance and immaturity. All of these sports require extraordinary skill and dedication to be proficient. In addition, gymnastics and diving require an incredible level of fitness. Johnson's arbitrarily and poorly thought out “rules” for what constitutes a sport are anachronistic. He wrote that any sport that requires an engine is in fact not a sport at all, but this is senseless. Under this logic, any sport requiring any piece of equipment is potentially not a sport. What is so special about an engine, versus, say, a hang-glider or even high-tech running shoes?

His article is also contradictory. Johnson states that competition and the thrill of victory are key factors of a sport — but I am sure that participants in these four sports are every bit

Letters, Page 5



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

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Letters (continued)

Letters, from Page 4

as competitive as any other, and furthermore, rejoice just as much in victory as any other athlete. Therefore, are they not sports by his criteria? In fact, he even states that his definition of a sport is based primarily upon what is entertaining to him.

Since when did the participants in the sports he lists decide the outcome? Last time I checked, none of these sports are based on the television show “Survivor.” Also, regarding his ignorance of the matter, diving does indeed have a well-documented, well-developed scoring system. Just because he is ignorant of that does not make diving a non-sport. With all due respect (which, admittedly, is not much), his assertion that spectators should be able to immediately know the outcome of an event with perfect precision (such as a dive) is absurd. If the outcome of every event must be so obvious to him, then nothing is a sport, as every sport has uncertainty in measurement.

Finally, I am quite embarrassed and disappointed that *The Tech* editors have even allowed this garbage masquerading as journalism to be published. Have the standards sunk this low? This article is not only a complete disgrace to the MIT community, the Physical Education department and *The Tech*, but also an insult to athletes worldwide.

Jonathon Cox G

Johnson’s Rules Have Little Significance

Your rules obviously fall short of your stated goal, as they eliminate at least three sports, diving, gymnastics, and rifle, where sacrificing the body is the only way to win. Ask Greg Louganis about that. Ask any serious gymnast why his or her growth has been stunted. And try rifle for a week.

I’ll bet your back will never be the same again. What about the mental aspects of sports?

Control, precision, clutch performance. Hitting the three-pointer with five seconds to spare. Having a great offhand set and then shooting all tens prone so you don’t lose your rifle match (I bet that means nothing to you). Your rules serve no purpose.

Mariano Alvira

Why Doesn’t *The Tech* Cover Grad Events?

As seen in the May 11 issue, *The Tech* dedicates page after page for advertisements to keep building its monetary reserves and arbitrarily decides on what events deserve full-page coverage. The Dance Troupe performance is one example. It is unclear whether *Tech* insiders simply pick their personal favorites, but what about that GradGala of May 5 — the first ever ball for the students and by the students that was a smashing hit?

Does not this hugely successful event that brought together 700 graduate students from di-

verse backgrounds to mingle at Edgerton’s reception and then experience a beautiful evening at the Park Plaza deserve even one line worth of mention? Needless to say, Senior Ball (also May 5) also found no place or mention, but the first ever Gala proves truly unique because it was organized with non-Institute funds despite early push back and will now be continued annually.

It is appalling to see how that largest student newspaper at MIT is also the most out of touch from major events that are significant for the 6000+ graduate student community. Several of us are quite disappointed with the failure of fair and relevant coverage by *The Tech*.

M. Jehanzeb Noor ’04 G is the outgoing GSC Treasurer 2006-07.

[Editor’s Note: See the May 8 issue for photo coverage of Senior Ball. The Tech offered to send a photographer to Grad Gala, but was told by organizers that the event was already being photographed.]

Using Terrorism to Justify Repression

Justin M. Cannon

The U.S. War on Terror has inspired far-reaching and unexpected consequences. Rebiya Kadeer will speak at MIT tonight on how the Uyghur Muslim minority in western China has endured one such consequence: the Chinese have adopted our rhetoric, equating Islam with violent separatism and global terrorism.

Crossing into Kadeer’s home province of Xinjiang in arid northwest China feels more like stepping across a national border than a provincial one. Pagodas give way to minarets, lamb kebab becomes the staple meal, and people who look more Pakistani than Chinese crowd into bazaars selling melons, rugs, yogurt, everything. The women’s headdress, the ubiquitous Arabic script, and the constant chatter of a language that sounds nothing like Chinese make it easy to forget you are in China.

This rich culture is threatened by the policies of a Chinese government obsessed with cementing its control of the region, which has historically expressed separatist tendencies. In attacking the perceived roots of separatism in Uyghur religion, the government has inflicted severe damage on the cultural identity of the indigenous Turkic population, known as the Uyghurs (pronounced “wee-gers”). For example, official incentives for migration have led to an influx of Han Chinese (the majority ethnic group in the country) into the region; as a result, the Uyghur population in Xin-

jiang now comprises only 45 percent of the total population, down from 95 percent in 1945. China’s oppression of Uyghur identity is dangerous to both the Uyghurs and Chinese state, building a legacy of animosity that will not disappear.

Fearing separatism, the Chinese government has instituted policies that dramatically fail to discriminate peaceful religious practice from violent political activity. These policies not only repress any hint of political dissent, but are disturbingly unique in their systematic targeting of any brand of Islam that does not, according to a government document “uphold the Marxist point of view of religion, and use the yardstick of the Party’s.”

Repressive policies target Uyghur Islam, but through the inextricable link between culture and religious tradition, affect social, academic, and professional life as well. By law, any Uyghur congregation must register with the authorities, be it a religious study group or community soccer league. Registration is a no-win situation: Chinese authorities can prosecute unregistered groups for violating the law, but, given that fifty percent of Uyghur detainees in 2001 were detained for belonging to “illegal organizations,” many Uyghurs refuse to register for fear of being blacklisted.

Local Uyghur religious leaders are required to attend political reeducation campaigns, during which “attitudes” are assessed and recorded in permanent files. The consequences of nonconformity can be devastating; mosques may be targeted for “rectification,” imams may lose accreditation,

or individuals may be imprisoned for “illegal religious activity.”

Any expression, oral or literary, that hints at dissent is punished. Undercover academics and investigators have had trouble documenting the repression simply because Uyghurs are too afraid to talk. In 2005, Nurmuhemmet Yasin was sentenced to ten years in prison for writing an allegory about a blue pigeon. Kadeer herself was imprisoned for sending newspaper clippings to her husband in the United States.

The government, in an attempt to mute religious ideology in the young, has instituted restrictions against Uyghur minors. Children may be forbidden to enter mosques, while basic expressions of the Islamic faith are forbidden in schools, from which children can be expelled for praying and fasting.

Though the Chinese government reported anti-state violence in Xinjiang prior to 9/11, it has used the momentum of the global war on terror to indiscriminately label all unacceptable political or religious activity as international terror. Local authorities have traditionally insisted that violence and terrorism are practically absent from the region. By October 2001, however, they were decrying a sweeping terrorist movement in Xinjiang and that the “East Turkestan terrorist forces” constituted China’s local front in the War on Terror.

Claims that any violent Uyghur groups have connections to Al-Qaeda have been highly publicized by the Chinese, but lack substantial evi-

dence and are considered highly questionable amongst China experts. To warm relations with UN veto-holding China prior to the Iraq invasion, the U.S. added the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) to its blacklist of terrorist groups in 2002. U.S. officials have since expressed regret and concern that China has used ETIM’s inclusion as a rhetorical blanket to justify repression of peaceful protest and religious practice.

The Chinese government is justified in approaching state security and potential separatist threats with high concern. These are priorities for any regime. In fact many Uyghurs, like Kadeer, speak out for a peaceful resolution to coexistence within China’s borders, and, at very least, a respect for basic human rights and religious expression. But by continuing to institute repressive policies and alienate Uyghur intellectuals and leaders, the Chinese are fomenting discontent and may plant the seeds for future revolt; the divide between radical and alienated citizen will increasingly blur. If the government does nothing to relieve Uyghur repression, the region, exhausting hope and peaceful solutions, may turn to the violence that the current repressive policies are ostensibly targeting.

Kadeer’s visit provides an opportunity for the MIT community to learn more. Simply becoming more educated would be a step forward — as Americans we should understand the consequences of our broad rhetorical campaign on terrorism and contribute to fixing the problems it has caused.

Do Good, Get Rich

Joia Ramchandani

A significant percentage of my graduating ChemE class is going into investment banking and consulting (myself included). I’m willing to bet the other science and engineering disciplines at MIT are witnessing similar trends. My hardcore engineering friends tease me for selling out, opting for the big bucks and cushy office instead of sticking to my technical roots. Personally, I have no problem making money,

and I encourage you all to make buckets. After all, money talks. But let’s be original about what we choose to say with it.

As MIT graduates, we are uniquely positioned such that we can have our cake and eat it too. If we marry our technical competence with societal needs and some basic business sense, we can make money and save the world at the same time. This marriage has a name — social entrepreneurship. We can be the new wave of tech entrepreneurs who integrate business strategy with social values. We can

recast traditional, non-profit philanthropy and in so doing revolutionize current approaches for addressing global challenges such as poverty and disease.

Industry giants like Bill Gates, Pierre Omidyar, and Steve Case have already begun to pave the way. These tech gurus have applied the business acumen they used to create Microsoft, eBay, and America Online toward combating daunting problems around the globe. Gates has contributed large sums to big pharma for the development of malaria

vaccines. Adopting a different tact, Omidyar kickstarted the microfinance industry by donating millions of dollars in small loans to finance impoverished entrepreneurs in India. To put the brakes on escalating pollution levels, Case invested in car rental startups that lease environmentally friendly vehicles. Clearly, there is no set recipe for what constitutes a successful social enterprise. This means that, in true MIT spirit, we can be as crazy, out-of-the-box, and ambitious as our imaginations (and pockets) allow.

I recently met a Course VI alum with pockets as deep as his desire to change the culture and mindset of MIT graduates. He used an emerging catchphrase — “engineering is the liberal arts of the 21st century” — to stress the demand for technical competence in the business world. He pointed out that we have a leg up on our peers at esteemed liberal arts institutions. We have the technical know-how to back up our business aspirations. In an increasingly multidisciplinary age, technical degrees can provide us with the expertise necessary for communicating and effecting change at the interface of business, technology, and politics. We can leverage this unique vantage point to drive the change we wish to see in the world.

Only time will tell if social entrepreneurship models will be more than a passing fad — i.e., if they will register a meaningful and enduring impact. Sure it may be naïve to think we can win the race against global warming, pervasive epidemics, and increasingly dire levels of poverty. The odds may be against us. But I look at the passion, dedication, and ingenuity of my classmates, and I can’t help but hope. Hope that we will use our network of far-flung resources to laugh in the face of the odds.

Yes, we may start off feeling like fish out of water in the business world. We may get lost without the familiar whirl of a microprocessor to guide us. But I am confident we can’t get too lost if we dive into the real world with global impact as our goal and the “Mens et Manus” mission statement as our compass.



May 15,
2007

COMICS

The
Tech

FUN

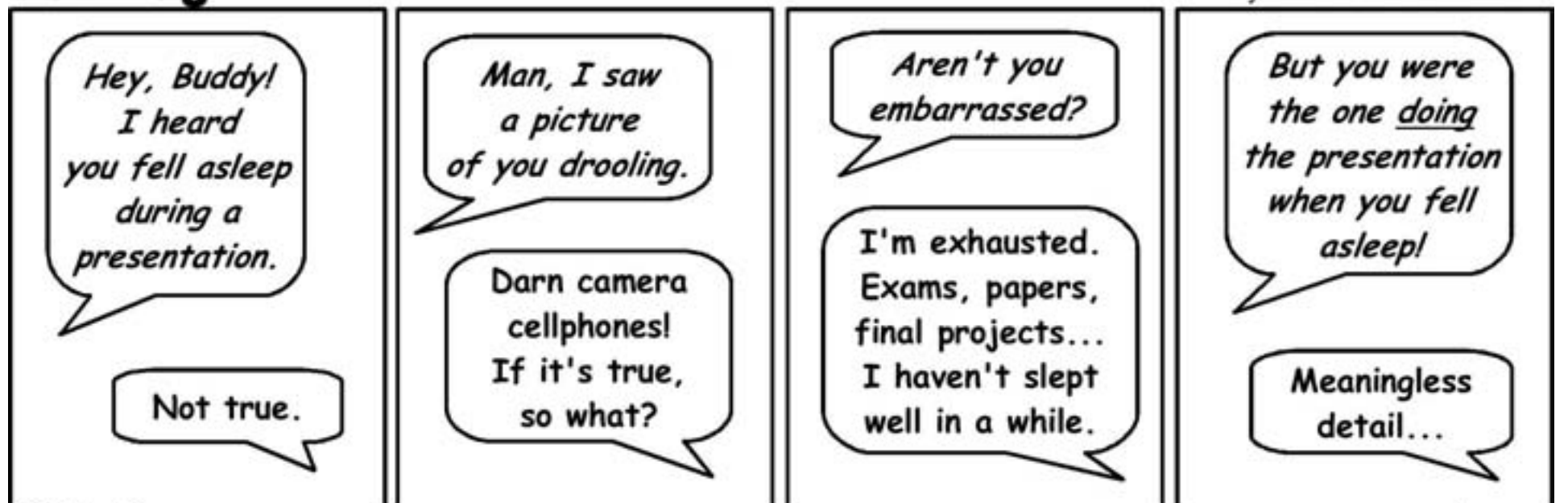
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7

PAGES



Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco G

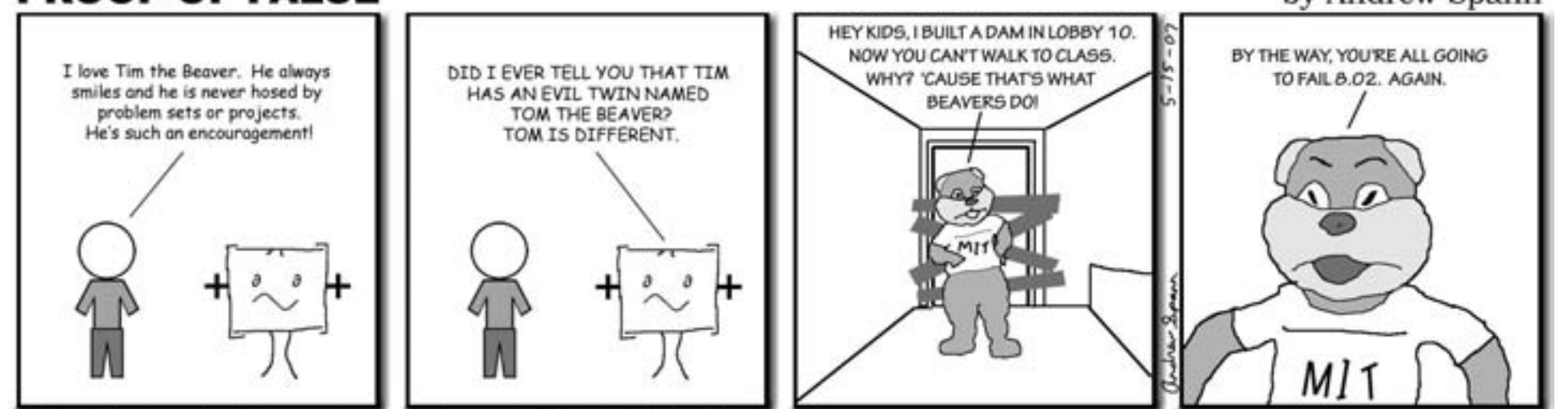


2007-May-12

runbug.com

PROOF OF FALSE

by Andrew Spann



Proof of False Archive: <http://web.mit.edu/spann/Public/ProofofFalseComic/>





Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 17

ACROSS

1 Rabbit fur

6 Actor Lugosi

10 Coarse file

14 Tropical palm

15 Jack of oaters

16 Director Kazan

17 Concealed microphones

18 Lose traction

19 Sly look

20 Not the real deal on the PGA

23 Stan or Spike

25 Manipulate

26 Vaquero's lassos

27 Star in Aquila

30 Find a perch

31 Decants

32 Smelting residue

34 Mid-sixth century date

37 Not the real deal in the WBA

41 Snakelike swimmer

42 Nair competitor

43 Poet Doolittle

44 Operate with a beam

46 Call it quits

47 Dope fiend

50 Comic Delaria

52 Wow!

53 Not the real deal in the NFL

57 Yeats or Keats

58 Notorious fiddler

59 Literary category

62 Pre-Euro currency

63 Jung or Sagan

64 Competed at Daytona

65 First place?

66 Zeno's home

67 Banned big bang

DOWN

1 Hard and fast rule

2 "Exodus" hero

3 Everlasting

4 Cake finisher

5 JPL partner

6 Outdoes

7 "Dallas" matriarch

8 Secular

9 Strength of a current

10 Put in more film

11 Attu resident

12 Tuscany city

13 Pals on the ranch

21 Junkyard dog

22 Stimpy's pal

23 Concentration gap

24 Marry on the run

28 ETA word

29 Leb. neighbor

30 Endure

32 Old dagger

33 T-shirt size

34 Persistence

35 Hunter's cabin

36 Nonsensical

38 Single example

39 Andress film

40 Fam. member

44 Lend an ear

45 Top card

46 Tatter

47 Tell's target

48 Automaton, for short

49 Tractor pioneer

50 Peter of "Casablanca"

51 First name in B-29 lore

54 Close securely

55 Taj Mahal locale

56 Main dish

60 Legal thing

61 NYC clock setting

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution on page 16.

Congratulations Massachusetts Institute of Technology Graduates

The Susquehanna International Group of Companies (SIG) would like to congratulate the following students on their upcoming graduation and welcome them to SIG for full-time opportunities:

Ajay Somani

is graduating with a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

Matthew Schoeneck

is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

Michael Menard

is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and Mathematics and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader.

In addition, SIG welcomes the following students to our 2007 Summer Internship Program:

Barnett Koryan

is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and will be joining SIG as a Assistant Trader Intern.

Ben Baumgold

is working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and will be joining SIG as an Assistant Trader Intern.

xkcd at MIT



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

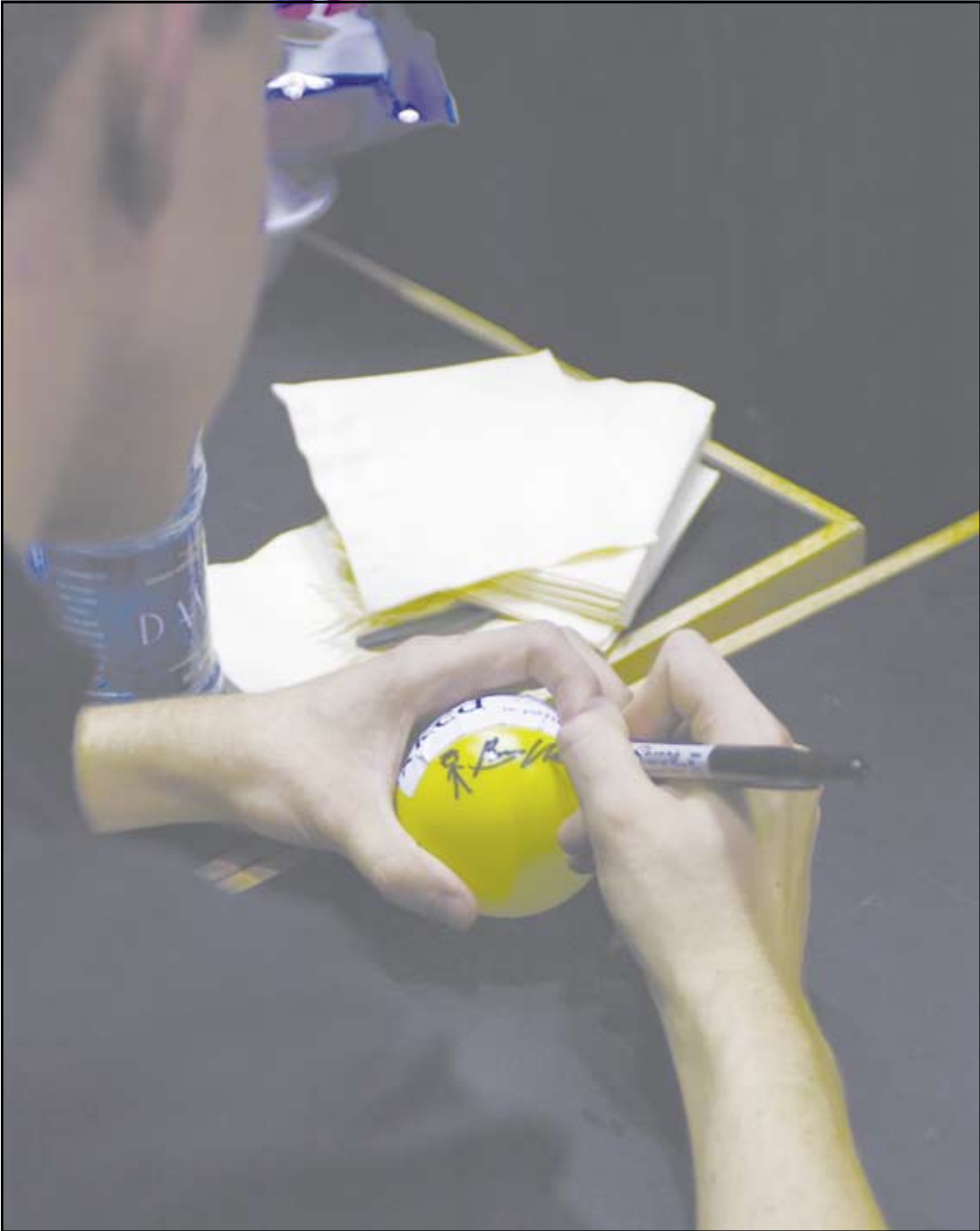


ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

(Counterclockwise from bottom left) xkcd author Randall Munroe signs a playpen ball with a man in a hat. Munroe discusses objects that could be dropped from a kite in order to confuse passersby. Munroe autographs an inflat-

able dinosaur while explaining why it is technically not a velociraptor. Munroe considers audience suggestions for an on-the-fly comic. A pair of radio-controlled velociraptors menace Munroe dur-

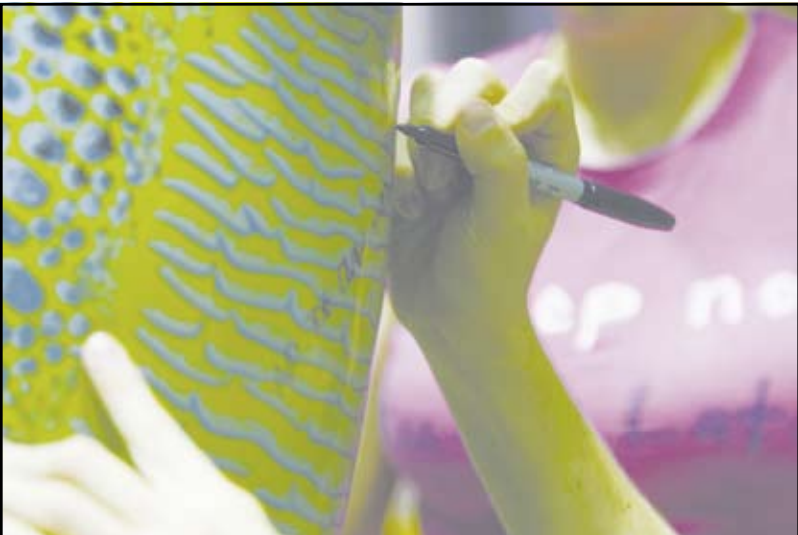
ing the lecture. Whenever they moved towards him, the artist reached for the squirt gun loaded with grape juice that had been conveniently provided. Munroe is bombarded by playpen balls after hackers dropped them from the ceiling of 10-250.



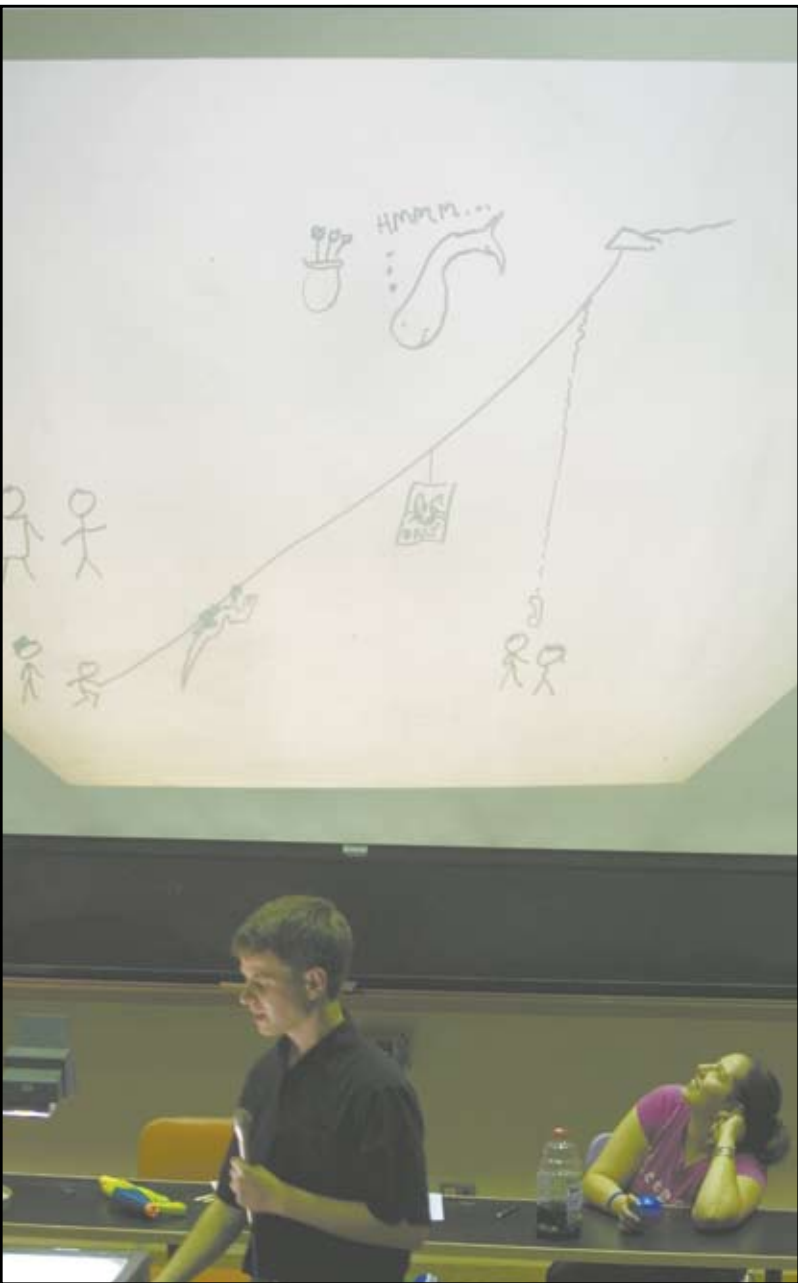
OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH



PETER H. RIGANO—THE TECH



PETER H. RIGANO—THE TECH

Movements In Time Annual Dance Show



Saturday, May 19th at 7:00 pm

Little Kresge Auditorium (W16)

Tickets: \$5 @ Lobby 10 (5/16 - 5/18)
& at the show

Featuring guests: models in traditional Nigerian clothing

Sponsored by UA Finboard



Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between April 24 and May 7, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuttles.

- Apr. 24:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 4:38 p.m., Reporting person reports a suspicious person in office; individual had left area upon MIT Police arrival.
- Apr. 25:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 2:07 a.m., A report of a suspicious person in the TV room; party was given a trespass notice.
- Apr. 26:** CP (32 Hereford St.), 4:28 p.m., Party report an altercation between himself and roommate; police dispatched and report to follow.
E2 (70 Amherst St.), 5:02 p.m., Party witnessed white male breaking into vehicle across the street from Senior House; vandalized car, iPod stolen.
- Apr. 27:** W4 (320 Memorial Dr.), 3:24 p.m., Report of a suspicious male who knocked on the student's door looking for a campus phone.
- Apr. 28:** W83 (550 Memorial Dr.), 10:34 a.m., Breaking and entering; tickets taken out of his room.
M14S, 2:42 p.m., Female stopped in library given trespass warning; routine check and inquiry.
- Apr. 30:** M4 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 10:27 a.m., MIT Police take report of annoying e-mails.
M16 (21 Rear Ames St.), 11:17 a.m., Caller states she was in women's bathroom on the first floor of Bldg. 16; when she walked out of the stall she noticed a man jump up and look the other way.
W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 2:26 p.m., Detective takes report of harassing phone calls.
M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 2:31 p.m., Online fraud by check through craigslist.
- May 1:** 518 Beacon St., 9:58 a.m., Bicycles stolen when unknown person entered through window the night before.
- May 2:** M54 (21 Rear Ames St.), 7:32 a.m., Breaking and entering nighttime no force; larceny of laptop.
- May 4:** M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 2 p.m., Breaking and entering no force; projector stolen.
- May 5:** W79 (229 Vassar St.), 4:54 p.m., Report of a domestic disturbance.
- May 7:** M3 (77 Mass. Ave.), 2:06 p.m. Breaking and entering; projector stolen.

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG

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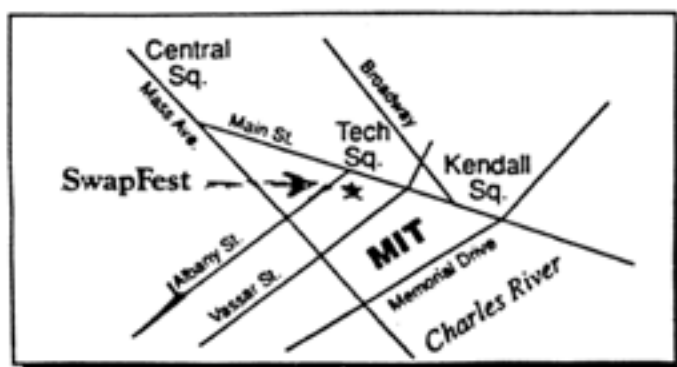
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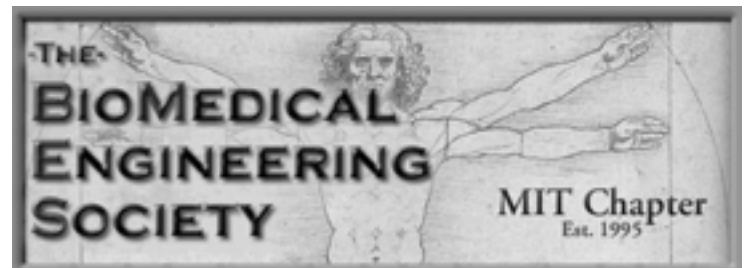
Social Entrepreneurship: The "Business" of Eradicating Disease



Wednesday, May 16, 2007
7pm in 66-110

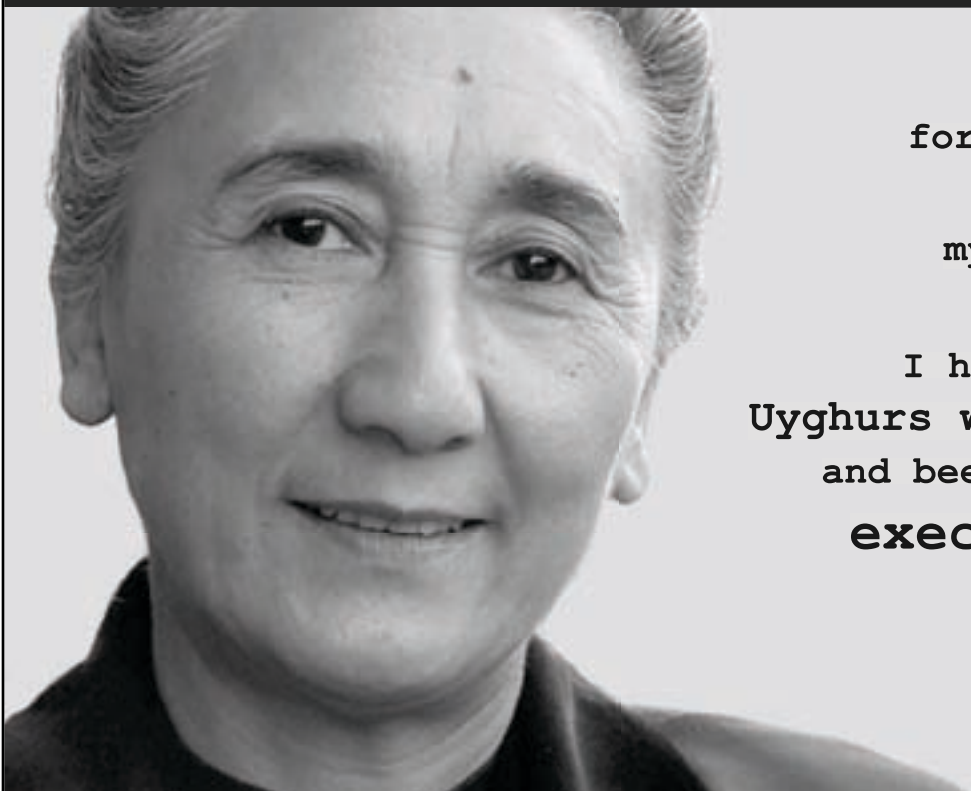
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I have lived with a sense of **TERROR**



...for the fate of Uyghurs
for the past few decades; and I have
watched in horror as
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I have been terrified for those
Uyghurs who have stood up and objected;
and been horrified when they have been
executed as "terrorists."

REBIYA KADEER

President, World Uyghur Congress
2006 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee

RHETORIC and REPRESSION of UYGHUR MUSLIMS in WESTERN CHINA TONIGHT 7:30-9:00 PM

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MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice - MIT Amnesty International - MIT Muslim Students' Association - MIT Model UN

Darfur Debate Lasts 9 Months

Divestment, from Page 1

ment Management Company “is in the process of making sure [all holdings are] in compliance” with MIT’s investment policy. Kolenbrander declined to comment on how long it would take to achieve compliance.

The Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility passed its recommendations to the Executive Committee in early April. It is not clear if yesterday’s statement agrees with the ACSR’s recommendations, since the recommendation was not released publicly. Kolenbrander declined to comment on the issue.

MIT has been considering the issue of divestment since early September 2006. Since then, the MIT community has taken part in the debate by drafting and signing petitions on both sides of the issue. The Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council passed a joint resolution supporting targeted divestment “from offending companies doing business with the genocidal government of Sudan.”

Eric G. Weese G, former GSC president and a student member of the ACSR, declined to comment on yesterday’s statement.

Kayvan Zainabadi G, who authored a petition supporting divestment, said that the statement is encouraging but added that he is “still cautiously optimistic.” “We really have to see how and when it’s implemented before we can pass any real judgement on the statement. ... I really hope this time that the Corporation will attempt to include some of the leaders of the divestment move-

MIT Corporation Statement on Divestment

MAY 14, 2007

MIT shares the concern of many in our community for the extraordinary human tragedy taking place in the Darfur region. The situation is sufficiently grave that MIT in this case is making an exception to its long-standing policy of not speaking with a single institutional voice on matters of public debate not directly affecting MIT’s core mission of education, research, and service.

MIT invests for the purpose of preserving the capital of MIT’s endowment and earning a return on capital that is consistent with MIT’s long-term investment horizon. At the same time, MIT will not invest in a company whose actions or expressed attitudes are abhorrent to MIT.

In the case of Sudan, the U.S. government, the United Nations, and various international organizations have declared that certain actions there amount to genocide. The risk of MIT being associated with truly abhorrent acts is real. MIT is reviewing the securities portfolios over which it may exercise direct investment discretion and will divest as appropriate for those portfolios to exclude securities that would violate MIT’s investment principles.

MIT’s Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility served an important role in the considerations leading to this action. The Executive Committee thanks the members and staff of that committee for their dedication to the Institute and their thoughtful work.

SOURCE: KIRK D. KOLENBRANDER, SECRETARY OF THE CORPORATION

ment and make the whole process much more transparent.”

Mustafa G. Dafalla ’09, who argued last fall that divestment is not constructive, said yesterday that the Corporation “spent a lot of time thinking about it ... the statement was carefully crafted and the upper administration were under a lot of pressure, so the outcome doesn’t really surprise me.”

Dafalla and Zahir A. Dossa ’07 traveled to Sudan in January 2007 in order to measure the feasibility of selling foot-powered irrigation pumps to farmers in the region. It

was an early step in launching what both students said they hope will be a sustainable non-profit.

“I’ll continue to work toward making positive changes,” Dafalla said. “I hope that one day people will follow suit.”

Students plan to continue sponsoring events designed to raise awareness about Darfur. There will be a “MIT Die-In 4 Darfur” held this Thursday at 11:45 a.m. in Lobby 7. The event, which Zainabadi helped organize, is sponsored by MIT-STAND (a student anti-genocide coalition) and Grad Hillel.

Wheelock and 11 Other Colleges Raise Cry on School Rankings

Schools Calls US News Magazine’s List Subjective and Unfair

By James Vaznis
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Wheelock College, along with 11 other small liberal arts colleges, is urging other institutions to stop using the US News & World Report rankings to promote themselves, arguing the rankings are too subjective.

The colleges’ presidents, in a letter e-mailed last week to hundreds of private colleges, said they oppose the magazine’s reputational survey, which asks high-ranking administrators to rate a list of colleges nationwide based on what they know about the schools. The resulting reputation score counts 25 percent toward a college’s overall ranking. The presidents are asking their peers not to fill out the survey.

“It’s an unfair way to assess the quality and effectiveness of a college,” said Jackie Jenkins-Scott, Wheelock’s president, of the reputation ranking. “It’s not a studied response. It’s truly based on what people know about a college.”

Wheelock, a 1,000-student college based in Boston, removed the magazine’s Best Colleges seal of approval for its undergraduate and graduate school programs for liberal arts colleges from its Web site last week.

The US News & World Report rankings are widely considered the gold standard of college rankings because they are so comprehensive, using dozens of factors to assess more than 1,300 institutions nationwide. High school students rely on the magazine’s annual rankings when choosing colleges, and several institutions, including Northeastern, have made pledges to improve their standings in the magazine’s rankings as a way of increasing prestige.

Yet many college presidents have long complained the rankings have grown too influential and have given false perceptions of institutional quality because of rank ordering. Jenkins-Scott and others argue that it’s impossible for college administrators to judge other colleges be-

cause they have not stepped foot in classrooms at most of them.

Brian Kelly, editor of US News & World Report, defended use of the reputational survey and the overall rankings.

“Who is better to rate peers than those who are in competition with them?” Kelly said. “We rely on knowledge of presidents and their good will to fill out these surveys thoroughly.”

But he added: “If we can figure out a better way of doing it, we would modify it and give it a different weight.”

In response to the push by the 12 schools, The Annapolis Group, a nonprofit association of the nation’s top liberal arts colleges, will discuss its view on the magazine’s reputation ranking at a membership meeting next month.

The magazine asks administrators to rate peer institutions on a scale of 1 to 5. The colleges are grouped by the hundreds into such divisions as major research universities, public state colleges, and small liberal arts schools.

Administrators also are given the opportunity to check a box next to each college, saying they don’t know enough information to respond.

To stand out in the pack and to enhance prestige, some colleges have hired private consulting firms to persuade their peers to give them higher scores. The consultants bombard the colleges with brochures, other promotional literature, and even potted plants with notes attached, said some of the college presidents involved in the push to stop reputational rankings.

The Education Conservancy, a nonprofit group based in Oregon that opposes college rankings, is leading the effort to ban the reputational survey, and is sending out the letters signed by the presidents of 12 nationally- or regionally-known liberal arts colleges, ranging in size from 330 students to 2,500 students.

Along with Wheelock, the oth-

ers are: Earlham College in Indiana; Dickinson College in Pennsylvania; Marlboro College in Vermont; Trinity University in Washington, D.C.; St. John’s College, with campuses in Annapolis, Md., and Santa Fe; Heritage University in Washington; Southwestern University in Texas; Bethany College in West Virginia; Drew University in New Jersey; Lafayette College in Pennsylvania; and Denison University in Ohio.

One goal, in addition to warning the public about the problems with the way colleges are ranked, is to persuade US News & World Report to stop ranking colleges.

“The rankings imply a false sense of precision and authority that is simply not supported by data,” said Lloyd Thacker, executive director of the conservancy.

US News & World Report has lessened its reliance over the years on the reputational surveys. When the magazine first published its list in 1983, it relied exclusively on reputational surveys. Since then, the magazine has incorporated other measures into the rankings, including SAT scores, class rank of admitted students, and student-faculty ratios, and has made some changes in response to criticism.

Kelly said the magazine reviews the methodology of its rankings several times a year and will do so again next month. He said the magazine already is considering a few changes, such as including the percentage of students receiving federal Pell grants.

That would address concerns about colleges being penalized for enrolling a high rate of poor students, he said. Poor students are at greater risk of dropping out of college, which affects graduation rates, another part of the magazine’s ranking system.

He said the magazine has no intention to stop ranking.

“The rankings allow people to sort through a baffling array of choices,” he said. “It’s a starting point. This should not be an end point of the college search.”

Funding Is Uncertain After Daytime Shuttle Donor Ceases Support

By JiHye Kim
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Daytime Boston Shuttle, which runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays during the school year, may not have sufficient funding for next school year, according to Undergraduate Association President Martin F. Holmes ’08. One of the two major sources for funding — a private donor — will no longer be available to cover the costs of running the shuttles throughout the school year, Holmes said.

The other major source of funding is Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict who contributed roughly \$40,000 over the past academic year, according to Holmes. Benedict was the only administrative supporter in the past when the Daytime Boston Shuttle ran only during the winter, Holmes said. The private donor covers roughly half the costs, according to Holmes, and has made it possible for the shuttles to run throughout the school year.

Without the private donor, Benedict has not yet committed to continue funding the shuttles for the next school year. “We have not resolved the revenue sources for the shuttle,” Benedict said in an e-mail. “That does not mean there will be no shuttle, rather that we are trying to figure out how to pay for it.”

According to Holmes, the Office of Parking and Transportation has made an effort to secure Institute funds for the Daytime Boston Shuttle. Currently, MIT funds all other transportation systems including the Tech Shuttle, North-west Shuttle, and SafeRide.

Holmes said he has been collaborating with Lawrence R. Brutti,

the director of OPT, to find alternative financial means.

“Brutti made a budget proposal asking for Institute funds to support the Daytime Boston Shuttle, but the proposal was rejected for some reason,” Holmes said.

The UA has drafted a bill, which passed unanimously at last night’s Senate meeting, supporting full Institute funding of the Daytime Boston Shuttle. The bill was signed by 35 student leaders from numerous Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Groups, Interfraternity Council, and Panhellenic Association.

According to Holmes, the UA will present the bill to Benedict and Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75, requesting a re-evaluation of Brutti’s original proposal for shuttle funding.

If the Institute funding is rejected a second time, Holmes said that one viable alternative is to find another private donor through the FSILG Alumni Association. “We expect that method to be much more difficult, so we’re hoping for the Institute funding to come through,” Holmes said.

The UA bill argues that 643 MIT students living in Boston rely on the Daytime Boston Shuttle to commute, especially in cases of inclement weather. The bill also questions the Institute’s full funding of the Tech Shuttle and Northwest Shuttle through the OPT despite the proximity of these locations in Cambridge compared to the FSILG locations in Boston. Finally, the bill requests that the MIT administration gather student input before deciding on issues that impact large portions of the undergraduate student body.

Approved Undergraduate Association Executive Committee Members

Senate Speaker	Irina Shklyar ’09
Senate Vice Chair	Jason C. Forte ’09
Senate Representative to UA Finance Board	Michael A. Bennie ’10
Senate Representative to UA Executive Committee	Steven M. Kelch ’08
Undergraduate Representative to UA Finance Board	Cokie Hu ’08 * Randall C. Shults ’10
Treasurer	Lucia T. Tian ’08
Secretary General	Alice A. Chiang ’08
Chief for Information Technology	Mason Tang ’10
Athletics	Peter A. Lamb ’08, chair Samuel A. Jasinski ’08, vice chair
Dining	Christopher K. Hoffman ’08, chair
Educational Policy	Daniel B. Denis ’08, chair Shreyes Seshasai ’08, vice chair **
Finance Board	<i>No one approved as of last night</i>
Housing	Mandi D. Holmes ’08, chair Eric S. Cortez ’08, vice chair
Nominations	Raffaella L. Wakeman ’08, chair Ada Lipkin ’08, vice chair
Orientation	Akil J. Middleton ’08, chair
Public Relations	Brittany A. Holland-Marcus ’10, chair Charles D. DeRobertis ’09, vice chair
Resource Development	Sophia Lee ’08, chair Aarthi Ramarathnam ’08, vice chair
Space Planning	Jessica N. Sundberg ’08, chair
Student Life	Zahir A. Dossa ’08, chair
Sustainability	Austin L. Oehlerking ’08, chair Kendra D. Johnson ’09, vice chair
Judical Board	Anthony C. Rizos ’09 Irene Lee ’10 Syed Sarwar Hassan ’10

SOURCE: RUTH MILLER ’07, OUTGOING UA VICE PRESIDENT

The following Undergraduate Association Senate officers and committee chairs were appointed during the last few UA Senate meetings.

* also The Tech’s business manager

** also The Tech’s technology director

Baker Refuses to Pay if Preferred Dining Fee Goes Up

Baker Dining, from Page 1

Freezing the fee at \$325 for the next few years or until an alternate program can be developed “means that incoming freshman [sic] and current residents will not experience another increase in the fee during their time at MIT,” Dining’s May 11 response states. “This will also pro-

vide opportunity to thoroughly examine alternative approaches and/or modifications to the House Dining system without undermining the current service.” The Baker House Dining committee, according to its response, expects Campus Dining to endorse a Preferred Dining fee reduction schedule voted on by Baker House at

its House meeting last Monday, May 7. The vote passed unanimously, 49-0-0. The resolution was sent to Berlin, as was the May 4 Baker House Dining Report. The proposed fee reduction would begin immediately, with the abolishment of the planned fee increase for next term. It would follow with a \$25 per term decrease

until the price matched the original Preferred Dining price adjusted for inflation. Campus Dining, in its May 11 response, stated that rollback of the Preferred Dining fee to \$300 for next semester “is not possible at this time” and that the fee reduction schedule proposed “will not be endorsed.” Dining said that implementation of

the reduction schedule would result in the closure of Baker Dining. The Baker House Dining committee said in its May 14 response that Dining fails to explain why Baker Dining is losing over \$100,000 a year. “If [Campus Dining] is unwilling to adhere to the House Meeting Vote then, in accordance with the resolution, Baker House cannot participate in [Preferred Dining],” the May 14 Baker House response to Campus Dining stated.

“Baker House only agreed to a one-term [Preferred Dining] trial, and explicitly voted against permanent participation at its inception,” said David Dryjanski ’07, a member of the Baker House Dining committee. According to the May 14 response, Baker House reserves the right to revoke Preferred Dining. The one-term provisional trial was voted on and approved in 2003, according to the Baker Dining report. “The next step is to work with the [Division of Student Life] administration to achieve a satisfactory resolution and ensure that the rights of Baker House are respected,” Dryjanski wrote in the e-mail.

See Dining’s May 11 response at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N26/bakerdining/diningresponse.pdf> and Baker’s May 14 response to Dining at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N26/bakerdining/bakerresponse.pdf>.

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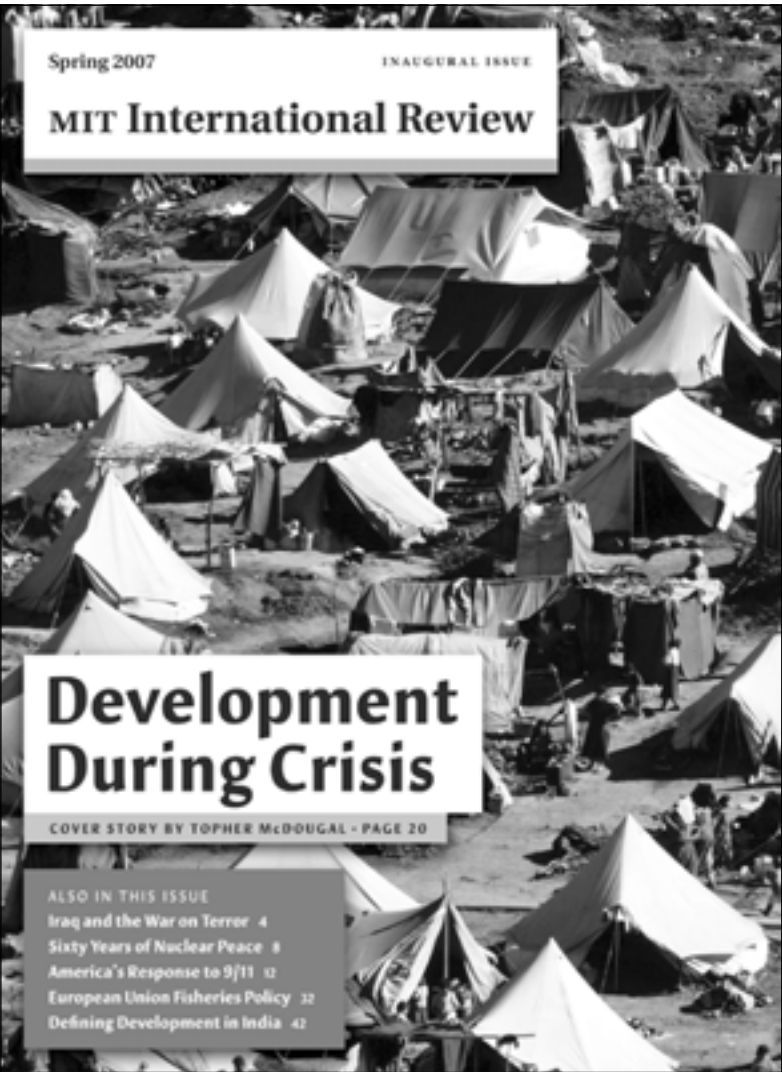
Solution to Sudoku								
from page 8								

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Spring 2007

INAUGURAL ISSUE

MIT International Review



Development

During Crisis

COVER STORY BY TOPHER McDOUGAL - PAGE 20

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Iraq and the War on Terror 4

Sixty Years of Nuclear Peace 8

America's Response to 9/11 12

European Union Fisheries Policy 32

Defining Development in India 42

The inaugural issue of the *MIT International Review* is available free online and around campus this week!

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Read the articles online or download the PDF of the inaugural issue at web.mit.edu/MITIR

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Solution to Crossword														
from page 8														
L	A	P	I	N		B	E	L	A		R	A	S	P
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Police Stationed Near Sherley’s Lab in ‘Routine Step’

Sherley, from Page 1

handling the issue.

Reif wrote in an e-mail to *The Tech*, “As Provost with responsibility for faculty affairs, I have been leading the effort to resolve our differences with Professor Sherley. I have attempted in our communications to establish a constructive dialogue so that we can resolve our differences.”

Tenure dispute

Sherley also wrote to Hockfield that MIT had agreed to either “develop an external decision process to decide whether or not my charge of unfair discrimination in the tenure decision and my charge of obstruction of the subsequent grievance were valid,” or “tenure me directly, as an admission that my charges were valid.”

According to Sherley, the deal to review the tenure and grievance process was made through his representatives, Professors Kenneth R. Manning and Munther A. Dahleh, but the “institution has done none of that,” he said.

MIT chose to pursue the second option of tenuring him directly, said Sherley, assigning Dean of Science Robert J. Silbey the task of finding opportunities for tenure in other departments. Eventually, however, Sherley said he received word from Reif that there was no opportunity for him at MIT.

Provost Reif, however, wrote in an e-mail to *The Tech* that “there was no agreement between MIT and Professor Sherley” to externally review the grievance process or grant him tenure directly.

Reif also wrote that “the Provost’s office would not grant tenure unilaterally,” because “[t]here has been no tenure recommendation for Professor Sherley from any of MIT’s departments or schools” and awarding tenure is a faculty decision that begins with “a faculty recommendation coming from a department or school.”

According to Sherley, however, there is a precedent allowing tenure without faculty input under certain circumstances.

“I still feel as strongly about this issue as I did before,” said Sherley, describing the resolution of his tenure case. As for the possibility of a future hunger strike, Sherley said that he had “not ruled out that possibility.”

Police presence

On May 8, Sherley informed members of the press via e-mail that police were stationed near his laboratory. “My understanding is that the surveillance is planned at least until June 30,” Sherley wrote in an e-mail to MIT’s Chief of Police John DiFava.

According to Sherley, a police

officer told him that members of the MIT administration wanted “to reduce anxiety among neighboring MIT laboratories” as the end of Sherley’s appointment approaches.

Sergeant Joseph Amoroso of the MIT Police said that police do patrol the biological engineering area, but Sherley’s laboratory is not under specific surveillance.

According to a statement by the MIT News Office, “The adjustment to campus police presence in the building containing Professor Sherley’s lab is a routine step to ensure the comfort and safety of all MIT students, faculty, and staff. It is a misinterpretation to view this as police surveillance of Professor Sherley or his lab.”

Biological engineering

On March 30, the Biological Engineering Department issued an e-mail delineating the reasons why Sherley’s tenure case was handled “with the utmost fairness in a process with the greatest integrity, as free as humanly possible from bias and racism.” It stated that Sherley’s tenure case was judged solely “on the basis of facts and merits.”

“Prof. Sherley’s publication record, while only one factor in our decision, did not meet the standards required for tenure cases in BE,” the e-mail stated.

“We don’t tenure people for teaching at other institutions,” said Professor Peter C. Dedon, associate director of the Biological Engineering Division. Only work performed at MIT is considered for tenure at MIT and most junior faculty do not have the prior experience Sherley attained at the Fox Chase Cancer Center, he said.

The BE letter also stated that much of Sherley’s research funding was obtained from grants on which Professor Linda Griffith, whom Sherley charged as an impetus in the denial of his tenure, served as the principal investigator. The National Institutes of Health Directors’ Pioneer Award was awarded to Sherley more than a year after the tenure decision, the letter stated.

The “numbers are wrong,” Sherley said in reference to the number of publications the BE letter provided. He also said that the tenure process should consider research performed before coming to MIT.

Sherley said he considered the BE letter “irrelevant” and said that the department is “playing a quantitative game in a game that’s not quantitative.” The focus needs to be on how the tenure case and grievance processes were handled, he said.

He has done us “more harm than good in diversity,” Dedon said, because the Sherley’s case will affect how prospective minority students, faculty, and post doctorates perceive the department.

Prof. Sherley’s Press Release — May 7, 2007

Today, May 7, 2007, at about 1:30 pm, Professor James Sherley was informed by an officer of the MIT Police that MIT’s upper administration had ordered that MIT police officers be posted near his laboratory from now until his scheduled forced eviction from MIT on June 30. The reason given was to reduce anxiety among neighboring MIT laboratories as the announced date of Professor Sherley’s unilateral forced eviction by Provost Rafael Reif approaches.

Professor Sherley expressed to the reporting officer that the appointment deadline issued by MIT Provost Rafael Reif is not legitimate for two main reasons. First and foremost, the June 30 deadline was issued by the provost before the agreement made with Professor Sherley by President Susan Hockfield that was the basis for the end of the February hunger strike protest. The hunger strike agreement rendered null and void the previous deadline. Second, in his original issuance, the provost made the deadline public, which is a violation of MIT personnel regulations. He made public Professor Sherley’s confidential appointment information.

It was unfair persecution by Provost Reif, who is charged with obstruction of Professor Sherley’s tenure grievance case, that precipitated Professor Sherley’s hunger strike. Because of the provost’s role in the dispute, the hunger strike agreement called for two other

officers of MIT’s upper administration to represent MIT in the resolution of differences.

However, President Hockfield never honor the agreement after it was sealed by an exchange of public statements on February 16, 2007. As outlined in an April 17 letter from Professor Sherley’s faculty advocate, Professor Kenneth Manning, the provost has continually been enjoined by President Hockfield to derail the resolution proceedings. He has been threatening to unilaterally evict Professor Sherley, in gross violation of the agreed upon resolution process, since March 29 on a weekly basis.

Professor Sherley expressed to the MIT Police that he has no plans for leaving MIT, until the administration honors its February 16 agreement to provide him a fair external adjudication, tenure, or both. Thus far, the MIT Police have been a comfort to Professor Sherley’s lab group, who are in the midst of setting up newly purchased analytical microscopes and molecular analysis equipment that will be employed in their NIH Pioneer Award Research on human adult stem cells. Although it seems that MIT’s administration meant step up its practice of bullying and authoritarian intimidation, ironically, they have eased, for a time, some of the worries of this research program that they plot to destroy.

James L. Sherley

Provost Reif’s Response to Sherley — May 14, 2007

Dear Faculty Colleagues:

Many of you by now know that Professor James Sherley is continuing his opposition to the decisions and processes in his tenure case. Through recent broadly distributed emails, he has claimed the existence of agreements with MIT that do not in fact exist, and he has revealed that he has made no plans to leave MIT when his faculty appointment ends. I am writing to provide you an update on this situation, clarify issues raised in Professor Sherley’s recent statements, and correct some of the mischaracterizations he has made about this matter.

Professor Sherley conducted a hunger strike for 12 days in February. On February 16, he and MIT, by prior agreement, exchanged respective statements that were then posted on the MIT website (<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2007/statements-sherley.html>) and he ended his hunger strike.

I want to make it clear that MIT made no agreement with Professor Sherley other than to exchange and release these statements. There was no agreement to review his tenure case again, nor did MIT agree to conduct any further review of his allegations that had been considered in his grievance process. As I said in my letter to you prior to Professor Sherley’s hunger strike, the action in his tenure case is final. MIT made no agreement to revisit that decision or extend his faculty appointment beyond June 30, 2007 in order to prompt Professor Sherley to end his protest. At the request of Professor Sherley’s representative after February 16, Dean Robert Silbey explored whether there were any tenure options for Professor Sherley outside his own division (Biological Engineering), but no other option was found. Dean Magnanti and senior BE faculty have issued letters touching on the tenure considerations in Professor Sherley’s case. (See [http://web.mit.edu/jnl/volume/sherley/magnanti_sherley\(3.8\).pdf](http://web.mit.edu/jnl/volume/sherley/magnanti_sherley(3.8).pdf) and [http://web.mit.edu/jnl/volume/sherley/BE_sherley\(3.30\).pdf](http://web.mit.edu/jnl/volume/sherley/BE_sherley(3.30).pdf), respectively.) Professor Sherley also asserts that there was an agreement when he ended his hunger strike that I would not participate in future discussions with him, and he has steadfastly refused to

accept any communication from me. There was no such agreement.

In MIT’s statement on Feb. 16, MIT pledged to “continue to work toward resolution of our differences with Professor Sherley.” Since then, we have tried repeatedly, through meetings, letters, and other communications, to follow through on that commitment by inviting Professor Sherley to participate in a professionally conducted mediation of all issues in dispute. While MIT’s position is that the tenure decision is final and that there is no remaining opportunity for tenure at MIT, we have not sought to limit the matters that Professor Sherley could raise in mediation, including disputing that position of MIT. We have provided Professor Sherley and his representative a list of professional mediators and stated that we would consider suggestions for other professionals who have the appropriate training and experience to assist in a mediation process. Associate Provost Claude Canizares and Dean Silbey met with Professor Sherley’s representative, and I personally sent four letters in March and April to Professor Sherley or his representative urging them to work with us in resolving our differences through mediation. Unfortunately, these efforts of inviting Professor Sherley to participate in a mediation with a professional mediator have not been successful so far.

Last January, I extended Professor Sherley’s faculty appointment through June 30, 2007 to give him and the Institute ample time to develop transition plans that would provide for the continuity of his research and the well being of the staff in his lab. Given the lack of progress we have seen, and with June 30th fast approaching, we have urged Professor Sherley to join MIT in making appropriate transition plans for his departure from MIT after his appointment ends. As I have said before, Professor Sherley is a talented individual who has much to contribute to science and society, and we would like to help him move forward to the next stage of his career.

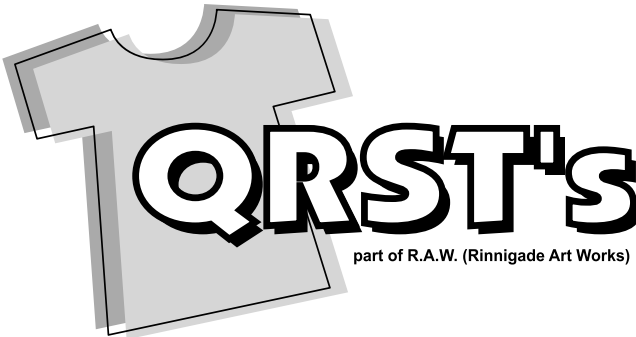
L. Rafael Reif

This letter is available at <http://web.mit.edu/provost/letters/letter05142007.html>.

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PSC Shifts Focus For Fall

PSC, from Page 1

ticipate in workshops throughout the year), which the MIT Society of Women Engineers have taken over this semester, and CommuniTech (a program that provides refurbished computers and training to use those computers to families), which is moving to the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab in the fall. ReachOut (a program which trains reading tutors for children), concurrently run by the PSC and Student Employment Office, will be passed over completely to SEO in the fall.

Also to be taken over by SWE, Women in Science and Engineering is a relatively new program being modeled after KEYs. (WiSE is designed to increase interest in engineering and science among high school girls.) A pilot of the program involving 60 high school girls was tested last fall.

Other programs, including, SciPro, iMath, and MathCounts are still in the process of being taken over.

Next year, the PSC plans to offer program management training to the service groups taking on ownership of these programs, Trickett said. This training will teach student leaders about volunteer recruitment, publicity, fundraising, and proposal writing.

Trickett said she hopes this new restructuring will open up the PSC to a broader community and connect service groups across campus. She also said she hopes to receive more student feedback on how to better implement this transition.

Mass. Governor Deval Patrick Announces \$1 Billion Plan to Advance Stem Cell Work

By Andrea Estes
and Stephen Heuser
THE BOSTON GLOBE

In the most sweeping policy announcement of his new administration, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick proposed Tuesday \$1 billion in funding for scientific research, a package designed to cement the state's reputation as a global powerhouse of medicine and biotechnology.

The 10-year initiative, which has won the endorsement of legislative leaders, would fund academic research and start-up companies, as well as create a stem cell bank at the University of Massachusetts for newly created lines of embryonic stem cells, a controversial arena of research currently barred from federal funding.

"We want Massachusetts to provide the global platform for bringing your innovations from the drawing board to the market, from inspiration to commercialization, from ideas to cures," said Patrick, who unveiled the package at an international biotech conference in Boston. "Researchers all over the world will be using stem cells that are truly made in Massachusetts."

The policy represents a marked shift in philosophy from the Romney administration, which injected language into a 2005 stem cell bill that would have barred scientists from using embryonic stem cells cloned for research purposes. The Legislature rebuffed Romney and passed a bill endorsing stem cell research, but provided no direct funding.

Patrick was joined on the platform by Senate President Therese Murray, who wore a yellow bracelet in memory of family members who have died of cancer, and House

Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi. Both pledged support for the proposal.

Aides said the administration will file legislation to begin laying groundwork for financing and administering the new program later this year. Over 10 years, the state would issue \$500 million in bonds to pay for capital investments at public institutions and other facilities. It would also spend \$25 million a year on direct research grants and offer \$25 million annually in tax credits to biotech companies that promise to create jobs in Massachusetts.

The administration, however, has not determined how much money would be dedicated to different areas of research or how much would be available to the private sector.

According to Jay Gonzales, the state's assistant secretary for capital finance, the money would be funneled through a reconstituted version of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, which was set up last year to distribute \$10 million in life-science funding. Under Patrick's plan, the center's five-member board would be enlarged to handle its increased responsibilities. It was unclear Tuesday night whether any of the \$10 million has yet been distributed.

The University of Massachusetts stands to collect more than \$100 million from the Patrick plan. Jack

Wilson, UMass president, said he expects the stem cell bank, which would be housed at the UMass Medical School in Worcester, to cost \$66 million. The first of its kind in the country, it would allow researchers from across the country to work on each others' stem cell lines. Eight hospitals and universities, including Harvard, have agreed to send their stem cell lines there.

"It's almost a lending library," said Wilson, referring to the stem cell bank. "This is a triumph for the governor to have gotten all these proprietary players to the table - industry, private universities, public universities - where we put aside our differences. ... This is what really distinguishes this proposal from anything else in the United States."

Another \$38 million would go toward a research center to make useful drugs from RNA interference, or RNAi, a new laboratory technique that scientists can use to turn off specific genes. UMass professor Craig Mello shared a Nobel Prize in medicine last year for helping to discover RNAi in 1998. Less than a decade later, drugs based on this technology are being tested in humans.

In recent years, other states have invested significant taxpayer money in drawing medical research, including California's \$3 billion stem cell bond issue and Florida's \$1 billion

campaign to persuade prestigious research institutes to locate campuses there.

While Patrick's overall package is smaller than California's \$3 billion voter initiative, the California experience may contain a lesson. The plan was attacked by opponents, and the money was long held up in court and only recently began to be distributed.

The Massachusetts plan has a broader approach, focusing on RNAi as well as stem cell research and other new technologies, although Patrick's plan did not enumerate which ones.

Despite its already high debt level, Massachusetts should be able to foot the bill for this 10-year investment, according to Michael Widmer, president of the Massachusetts Taxpayer Foundation, a government watchdog group.

"At \$100 million a year, it's not a huge amount of money," Widmer said. "But that's \$100 million that can't be spent elsewhere. It's a question of priorities. From my perspective, this is an economic bet. The jury is still out."

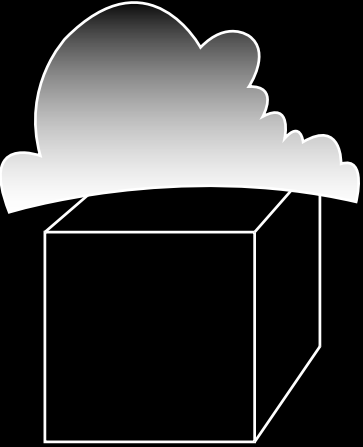
Some said that Patrick's plan interferes with the free market.

"This is a completely inappropriate direction to be taking," said David Tuerck, director of the Beacon Hill Institute, a conservative think tank. "It's an industrial policy where the governor gets in the business of picking winners and losers and trying to do what private capital markets are ... already doing quite well."

House minority leader Bradley Jones, Republican of North Reading, wondered why Patrick would propose such an expensive plan at the same time he is grappling with a budget that is out of balance.

"We want Massachusetts to provide the global platform for bringing your innovations from the drawing board to the market, from inspiration to commercialization, from ideas to cures."

— Mass. Gov. Deval Patrick

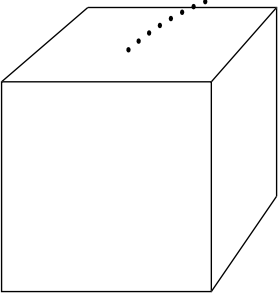


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SPORTS

Basketball, Baseball, Football, Hockey Are Not Sports Either

By John Hawksley

I have a much more restrictive definition of “sport” than Travis Johnson (*The Tech*, May 11, 2007). So restrictive, in fact, that Johnson’s four favorite sports and most summer Olympic events don’t qualify.

Basketball, baseball, football, and hockey should not be labeled as sports, and here’s why:

1) The outcome must be determined by the skill of the participants, not by a panel of judges or by chance. Johnson provides an excellent example: “So You Think You Can Dance” is not a sport.

Basketball fails here as well. The referees just love to make themselves a part of that game. We even know their names: Joe Crawford, Bob Delaney....

Take one look at Bruce Bowen and his dirty Spurs kicking and

flopping their way across Texas and you’ll know what I mean. Don’t share air with LeBron James, that’s a foul — Commissioner David Stern thinks he’s a dandy.

2) A sport must require physical and cardiovascular exertion. That does seem to be a generally accepted principle. Still, I must say that I diverge with Johnson’s assertion that this rule eliminates the game of poker. I guess he’s never held enough chips for the aerobic element to come into play.

This is, of course, where baseball drops out.

3) A sport must be competitive, and the outcome must rank the participants. Johnson tells us, “Competition is the essence of sport.” Yet only a few sports outside of the triathlon can claim to stay true to this ideal.

NFL football is a business, and decidedly non-competitive. Revenue

sharing between teams guarantees that the playoffs are a toss-up every year. Don’t kid yourself, Brady fans, the Patriots are a complete fluke.

4) A sport must not require participants to use an internal combustion engine. Johnson lists this criterion but fails to expose that hockey should not be called a sport. Or have we all forgotten the Zamboni?

My personal soft spot for hockey that makes this exclusion difficult, although necessary. The Chicago Blackhawks are winning the Stanley Cup next year. Book it. They’re a finesse team.

I do have a point here... Johnson hopes to draw a few lines on paper that unconditionally separate sports from games. If there is any geometry to this distinction, it clearly goes beyond the limits of protractor and compass. His futile choice is between a definition that nobody can agree with and one that nobody can understand.

Falconry is a sport. So are rifle, running, swimming, shotput, javelin throwing, elephant hunting, gladiator battling, and bowling. These have far more history as sporting events than any silly American invention of the past two centuries.

To be fair, Johnson’s argument may be more practical than semantic. This interpretation has relevance in the content we see on ESPN, or in the Olympics.

Sorry Travis, but when it comes to the Olympics, I’d rather stick to its tradition as a celebration of the athleticism of man. Archery and gymnastics deserve their trip to Beijing this year more than any of the “sports” your personal tastes allow you to stomach.

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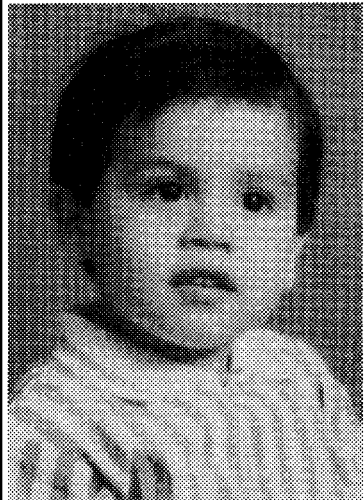
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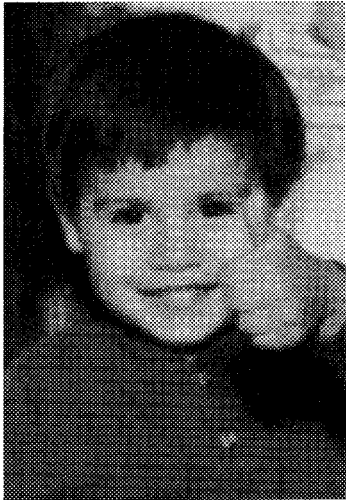
If you have any questions, please contact Professor Jeff Ravel, ravel@mit.edu, 3-4451.



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Daily Meditation

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